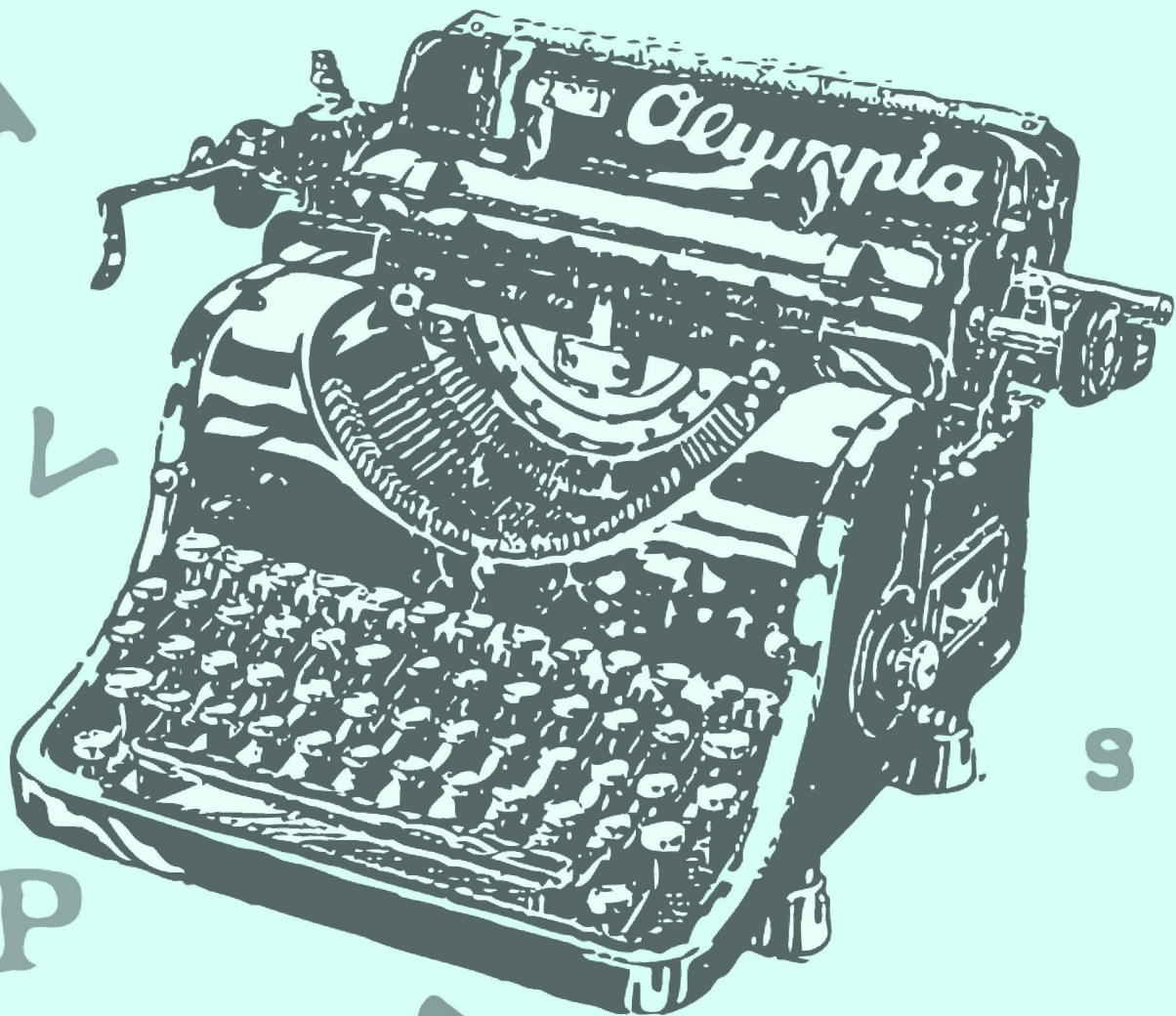


# Authors' Best

One best paragraph per book,  
selected by the author



Second Edition: Oct 2018

# Authors' Best

*One best paragraph per book,  
selected by the author*

Authors: [Catherine Ryan Hyde](#) | [Ramendra Kumar](#) | [Monica Mujumdar Dixit](#) | [Rahul Tushar](#) | [Moinak Dutta](#) | [Padmini Karwankar](#) | [Sushant Devarachetty](#) | [Thawan](#) | [Neha Siddhwani](#)

*2nd Edition, October 2018*

The second edition of Authors' Best is available in the following formats:

[EPUB \[2nd Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[2nd Ed\]](#)

Note-1: The PDF version of the 2nd Edition will be published by 31st October 2018

Note-2: Links to download the EPUB & PDF formats are persistent URLs redirecting via purl.org, a service of the non-profits OCLC & Internet Archive. It is completely safe to access web addresses

beginning with purl.org. No analytics or other notifications are generated upon clicking purl.org links.

Published by Sushant Devarachetty in 2018 on behalf of the collaborating authors.

Content on author pages © respective authors: [Catherine Ryan Hyde](#) | [Ramendra Kumar](#) | [Monica Mujumdar Dixit](#) | [Rahul Tushar](#) | [Moinak Dutta](#) | [Padmini Karwankar](#) | [Sushant Devarachetty](#) | [Thawan](#) | [Neha Siddhwani](#)

The following creative writers have asserted their right under the Copyright Act, 1957 (Act No. 14 of 1957) and the International Copyright Act (short title) to be identified as the authors of the content on their respective pages:

[Catherine Ryan Hyde](#) | [Ramendra Kumar](#) | [Monica Mujumdar Dixit](#) | [Rahul Tushar](#) | [Moinak Dutta](#) | [Padmini Karwankar](#) | [Sushant Devarachetty](#) | [Thawan](#) | [Neha Siddhwani](#)

Text of content less than on author pages © Sushant Devarachetty, 2018 onwards

Sushant Devarachetty has asserted his right under the Copyright Act, 1957 (Act No. 14 of 1957) and the International Copyright Act (short title) to be identified as the author of this work less the content copyrighted to respective collaborating authors.

\* \* \*

Cover art © Jigyasa Rangeen, 2018 onwards.

\* \* \*

EPUB code in the documents (including XHTML files) and style sheets in this publication © Sushant Devarachetty, 2018 onwards

\* \* \*

This collaborative publication represents a sincere effort by the participating authors to bring their works to a wider audience. Hopefully, some of the creative outpourings will help readers discover new voices and inhabit new worlds.

\* \* \*

Identifier (in lieu of ISBN [Why?](#)): *authors-best-2nd-edition-october-2018*

BISAC ([2017 Edition](#)): FICTION / General. | POETRY / General. | SELF-HELP / General. | NONo00000 NON-CLASSIFIABLE

Classification: [UDC](#) 82-1 | 82-3 | 82-4 | 82-7 | 82-9

\* \* \*

SECOND EDITION | EPUB & PDF: OCTOBER 2018



\* \* \*

This edition of Authors' Best is available in the following format(s): [EPUB \[2nd Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[2nd Ed\]](#)

Note: The PDF version of the 2nd Edition will be published by 31st October 2018

\* \* \*

# Contents

[Cover](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright](#)

[About Authors'](#)

[Best](#)

Fiction

1. ["Walk  
Me  
Home" By  
Catherine  
Ryan  
Hyde](#)

2. ["A  
Tsunami  
Called  
Naani" By  
Ramendra  
Kumar](#)

3. ["A  
Quest for  
Spring"  
By Monica  
Mujumdar  
Dixit](#)

4. ["Ballad  
of a Belle"](#)

By Rahul  
Tushar

5. "In  
search of  
La  
radice..."

By  
Moinak  
Dutta

6.  
"नारायणी  
(Narayani)"  
By  
Padmini  
Karwankar

7. "The  
Language  
of  
Hoofbeats"  
By  
Catherine  
Ryan  
Hyde

8. "The  
Oyster" By  
Sushant  
Devarachetty

Poetry

1.  
"mapoksida"

[By](#)

[Thawan](#)

2. ["Dusk](#)

[Romantics](#)

[~ The](#)

[Omen of](#)

[Love" By](#)

[Neha](#)

[Siddhwani](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Acknowledgment](#)

[Postface](#)

[List of authors &  
poets](#)

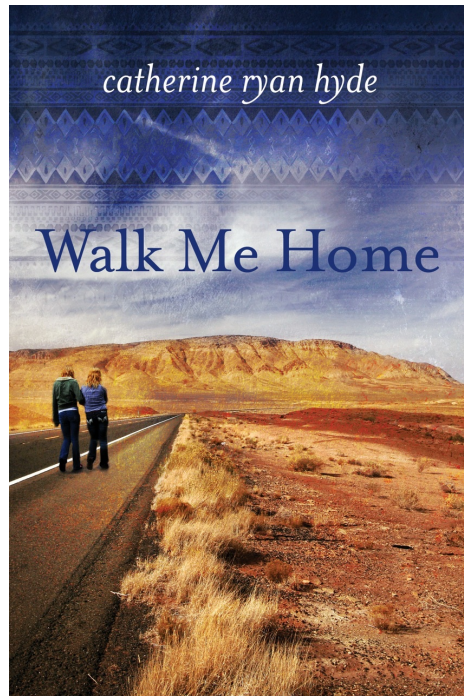
[Publishing](#)

[Workflow](#)

[Footnotes](#)

# WALK ME HOME By Catherine Ryan Hyde

Genre: Adult Fiction | Published by Lake Union/Amazon Publishing in April 2013



## Best Paragraph

Situations are like that. They take up all the time you used to use for working and eating and sleeping. They soak up your whole life like a black hole in space soaks up the sunlight. And then, where you used to have a life, all you have left is a situation.

## Why is it my best?

I liked it myself, but I actually chose it because Kindle allows you to see

what readers highlight. And over 700 people highlighted this paragraph.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***Walk Me Home***, visit:

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0099TF3RI>



## About Catherine Ryan Hyde

Catherine Ryan Hyde is the author of thirty-three published books. Her bestselling 1999 novel, *Pay It Forward*, adapted into a major Warner Bros. motion picture, made the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults list and was translated into more than two dozen languages for distribution in more than thirty countries. Her novels *Becoming Chloe* and *Jumpstart the World* were included on the ALA's Rainbow List; *Jumpstart the World* was also a finalist for two Lambda Literary Awards and won Rainbow Awards in two categories. *The Language of Hoofbeats* won a Rainbow Award. More than fifty of her

short stories have been published in many journals, including the Antioch Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, the Virginia Quarterly Review, Ploughshares, Glimmer Train, and the Sun, and in the anthologies Santa Barbara Stories and California Shorts, as well as the bestselling anthology Dog Is My Co-Pilot. Her short fiction received honorable mention in the Raymond Carver Short Story Contest, a second-place win for the Tobias Wolff Award, and nominations for Best American Short Stories, the O. Henry Award, and the Pushcart Prize. Three have also been cited in Best American Short Stories.

Hyde is the founder and former president of the Pay It Forward Foundation. As a professional public speaker, she has addressed the National Conference on Education, twice spoken at Cornell University, met with AmeriCorps members at the White House, and shared a dais with Bill Clinton. An avid equestrian, photographer, and traveler, she lives in California.

## Let's connect

WEBSITE: <http://www.catherineryanhyde.com/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/cryanhyde>

GOODREADS:

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126447.Catherine\\_Ryan\\_Hyde](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126447.Catherine_Ryan_Hyde)

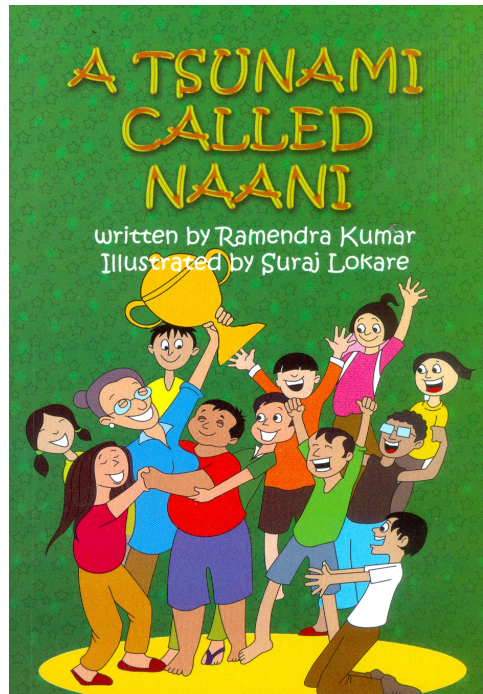
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CatherineRyanHyde/>

\* \* \*



# A TSUNAMI CALLED NAANI By Ramendra Kumar

Genre: Fiction for Children and Young Adults - Realistic fiction in the 'Here & Now' | Published by Mango Books in September 2016



## Best Paragraph

As the dance drama unfolded the entire audience watched mesmerized. Naani could feel Goosebumps as the children put up a stunning show. She had attended every rehearsal and been involved at every step, but today she knew was different. Every single child had stretched itself to the limit. During practice often she had noticed slight imperfections because of the web of constraints the kids were ensnared in. But here, right in front of her they seemed to have broken all barriers. They had risen above their limitations to create a collage that was more

like a poem on stage.

After they finished there was complete silence for a few moments. Then the audience got up as one and broke into a thunderous applause that seemed to go on and on and on.....

## Why is it my best?

It epitomizes what the book stands for - Naani's sublime connect with the youngsters & her ability to prove that impossible is merely a mirage.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase *A Tsunami Called Naani*, visit:

[https://www.amazon.in/Tsunami-Called-Naani-Ramendra-Kumar/dp/8126466499/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534999049&sr=8-1&keywords=a+tsunami+called++naani+ramendra+kumar](https://www.amazon.in/Tsunami-Called-Naani-Ramendra-Kumar/dp/8126466499/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534999049&sr=8-1&keywords=a+tsunami+called++naani+ramendra+kumar)



## About Ramendra Kumar

Ramendra Kumar is an award-winning writer for children with 33 books to his name. His writings have been translated into 28 languages and

published in school text books and anthologies. Ramendra is a much sought after inspirational speaker and storyteller.

Let's connect

WEBSITE: <http://www.ramendra.in>

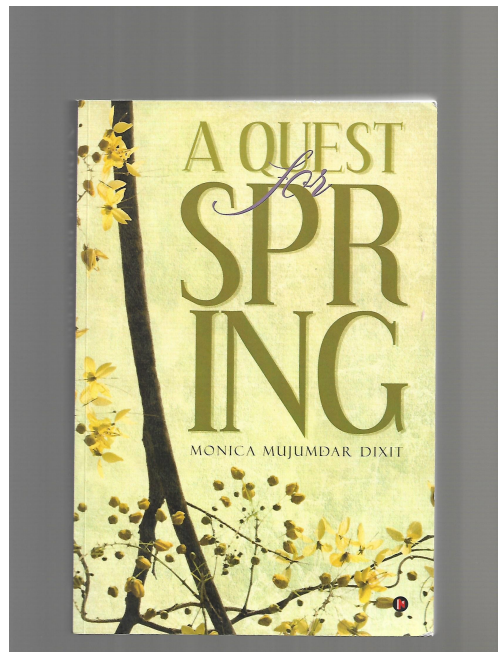
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ramendra.kumar.526>

WIKIPEDIA: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramendra\\_Kumar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramendra_Kumar)

\* \* \*

# A QUEST FOR SPRING By Monica Mujumdar Dixit

Genre: Adult Fiction | Published by Notion Press in September 2017



## Best Paragraph

"**R**etirement?" Raehan asked, laughing.

"Why are you laughing? Everyone retires at some point or the other. Even Sachin had to retire, then who are we mere mortals," Amolika said, smiling.

"Ah Sachin. You still love him, don't you?" Raehan asked teasingly.

"Well, I could never learn to unlove," Amolika answered. An awkward silence followed.

“Had things not been the way they were, would we stand a chance?” Raehan asked, breaking the silence. He regretted asking so as soon as he did.

“If things had not been the way they were, we might have had a life together, somewhere in Europe or in America, you a professor and me a journalist,” Amolika replied, hesitatingly.

“Why do you always think Europe or America? Even then it was always UK for you?” Raehan asked.

“It’s so because two different faiths cannot co-exist harmoniously in holy matrimony in our country. There are too many social pressures. Plus, my Kaka and your Baba would have hunted us down. So we would have had to elope anyhow,” Amolika explained.

## Why is it my best?

A Quest for Spring is all about second chances, about trusting someone who has betrayed you once before. It is this conversation between the protagonists Amolika and Raehan that paves way for their getting back together. It's for the first time that they have a conversation without any inhibitions or any acrimony in the last sixteen years. It's the first time that they move on to making peace with the past. It's when there is a thaw in their relationship. So I consider the best part of my book A Quest for Spring.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***A Quest for Spring***, visit:

<http://amzn.in/d/9qNbvgQ>



## About Monica Mujumdar Dixit

Monica Mujumdar Dixit was born in Raipur and did her schooling in Bhopal and Mumbai. She went onto graduate in Commerce from the Mithibai College in Mumbai and completed her LLB degree from the prestigious ILS College, Pune. She is a lawyer by profession and has practiced at the High Court of Bombay, Nagpur bench, and also worked as a Legal Analyst with a publishing house, publishing law journals. She loves cricket, is an avid reader and also blogs movie reviews. She Lives in Nagpur with her husband Rohit and daughter, Aahana. This is her debut novel.

## Let's connect

WEBSITE: <http://monicamujumdardixit.com/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/amolikaraehan2017/>

\* \* \*



# BALLAD OF A BELLE By Rahul Tushar

Genre: Adult Fiction | Published by Adhyyan Publications International  
Pvt Ltd in April 2018



## Best Paragraph

"**A**rti, do you know what sexual cannibalism is?" Stanley asked a rather awkward question and I hesitated to reply.

"Eh! I.... not really, I wouldn't hazard a guess" I wasn't sure what I was thinking was right.

"Oh! It is an incredible phenomenon in nature where certain female species of arthropods like the black widow devour the male prior to, during or after copulation. There are various hypotheses as to why females do it, but the one which I find most interesting and closer to human behavior is the Mate Choice Hypothesis. The females in poor physical condition are more likely to cannibalize weaker males who display poor genetic advantage, than to decisively mate with them. They let such males come close or even initiate the process of copulation and then strike a death blow by their sting on the unsuspecting male to devour them."

"And how is this closer to human behavior?" I was more interested in knowing about humans than arthropods or whatever the creepy creatures are called.

"In humans, cannibalizing should refer to devouring the self-esteem

of a man when she chooses a more affluent man, but that's fine. What's more interesting is what the male does to ensure that the female is not mated by other contending males. The males of the Australian redback spider somersault into the mouths of the females after copulation has occurred so that she's satiated enough not to let other males come closer to her. The males of some other species sacrifice themselves by Spontaneous Programmed Death or Self-genital Mutilation while they are still in the process of copulating to block the genital of the female thereby preventing other males. Possessive idiots. Men, I'd say, are eternally stupid for they try doing the same by blocking female's heart by memories."

## Why is it my best?

This paragraph as per the author reflects the deep rooted insecurity and possessiveness of a man who is in an undefined relationship

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***Ballad of a Belle***, visit:

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/9387502031>

## About Rahul Tushar

Born to a family of broadcasters, Rahul secretly desired growing up in the corridors of National School of Drama at Mandi House. However, with 'chakras' in his feet and Mars his ruling planet, destiny had already charted a different course of life for him. Travelling across the entire length and breadth of the country, he was destined to fall in love with the concept of India. His wanderings turned him into a die-hard patriot and a moderate nationalist. He scribbled whatever touched his heart, till one

day when he decided he must 'write'. Since then, he has been in overdrive. Besides 'Ballad of a Belle', his debut novel, Rahul is simultaneously working on his second work of fiction, 'The Sinful Oracle'

Life in this maddening city drives him to the wilderness of the mountains every now and then. Till the time he adopts some hill top as his abode, he continues to reside in Delhi with his wife.

## Let's connect

WEBSITE: <http://www.rahultushar.com>

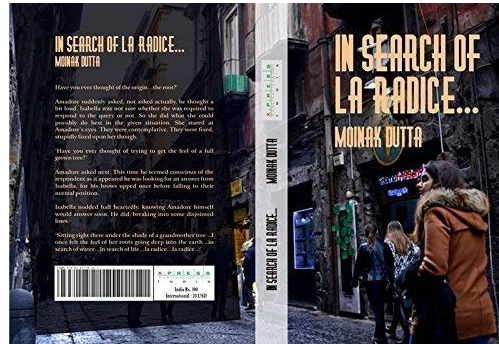
FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/tushar.rahul.372>

GOODREADS: <http://www.goodreads.com/rahultushar>

\* \* \*

# IN SEARCH OF LA RADICE... By Moinak Dutta

Genre: Adult fiction - Literary romance | Published by Xpress Publications in August 2017



## Best Paragraph

**B**idhan Pally,

Colony more,

Ashokenagar,

North 24 parganas,

West Bengal,

Month of September 1980

My heart's joy,

Hope you have grown into a sweet good-looking girl of eight years by now, an Italian perhaps, with beauty of soul and body, nourished by the breeze of the sea and pizzas and pastas and Italian sonatas.

Hope those sweet curls of your soft hair had grown softer and flowing like music. Hope the sun has lent his favored glow upon your skin to make you a light fairy...

I don't know whether this letter will ever reach you or not. I have no such strong desire but have a faint dream that one day you will definitely get the chance to read it. I have asked one very reliable person to send it to you long after my death, at least after twenty years, for then you will probably be twenty-eight. A woman of twenty-eight years of age has seen the world enough to understand certain things. A daughter of twenty-eight years of age has also the requisite understanding to know, learn and imbibe certain things.

But then again, I am so uncertain about the future, like everyone in this world. Future is a time that is like a dream always. One can get into sleep and dream about it, thinking it to be real. However, when the sleep breaks off and one wakes up, one realizes it is just a dream. Future is just like that. Therefore, it will be more logical to state that it is my dream that someday you will read the letter, and you will get to know about the past through it. It is my dream that it will reach you when you will be twenty-eight. It may not. It may reach you early. It may reach you late. It may not even reach you.

Coming back to the present day, I am so far fighting it out against the omnipotent God by my prayers to Him. I think He being omniscient, had given me a little time as allowance to write this letter to you. In fact, He had already given me much time, I think. I am diagnosed with ovarian cancer five years back, soon after your birth, and see, I am still alive and ticking, like an old clock with a shabby glass window and broken machinery inside. I am still ticking, malfunctioning, slowing down considerably, but still my hands move, and so my legs.

After you went away, many things happened. The political killings,

(now apparently nonexistent) apart from my ailing stature, prompted me to give you away to be reared elsewhere, far away from this land. The political unrest had been also a cause behind the separation between your father and me. I would come back to it later. A new government had come. Sanity had somewhat been restored. At least every morning, we no longer wake up with an unnerving sense of dread. My father had died last month, quite unceremoniously. He died, I heard from my eldest brother, while sitting on his chair, looking vacantly. I went to the funeral ghat straight by a taxi. It was a long journey-from here to Maheshpur. Bibhuti babu had accompanied me. We came back shortly after the rituals being over. I had a brief talk with my sisters-in-law at the ghat. My brothers did not talk with me. Surprisingly, I did not cry, seeing even my father's body laid on the funeral pyre. I had got too hardened I think. Perhaps I had not yet forgiven him for my mother's death. Perhaps I expected a lot from him. Perhaps you have already noted that there is no definite date written on the top of this letter. It is because it is a long letter, and given my ailing physical state, I am not sure whether I will be able to write so many things on a single day. However, I have started writing this today-6 September 1980 and I hope to write it until I am satisfied of the fact that I have written all that I wanted to. It might take the whole month of September this year. I am uncertain about that even. So I have worked upon a plan. I have decided to divide this writing into small segments. Each segment will have a definitive title head. That will serve two purposes-on one hand it will help me to make out later whether I have touched upon all issues or ideas and on the other it will help you as a reader to understand things better.

So here's the first part:

### The Introduction

You might find it strange that this letter has so many uncertain factors embedded into it. Yes there are. Then which life is certain? What

is certain in life? Hope you are grown up enough to think about that.

Now, another important thing to explain, why am I writing this? I asked this question to myself and the answer I got is overwhelming. My soul told me that I have every duty being one contributor to your existence, to make you aware of the secret of your origin, and its lineage. It is a daunting task no doubt, for a woman like me who is not equipped with enough worldly knowledge or wisdom of a seer or a prophet. I am a simple woman, with some education. However, more importantly, I am your mother and that suffice for everything I write here, after so many years.

I know that when you left me you were in your childhood. Therefore, it is not possible for you to recollect even my face. From my own experience of losing my mother at a very tender age, I got the idea that when you lose someone at a very early age of your life, you can never recollect that person's face properly later on.

## Why is it my best?

It is the most significant part of the story where the protagonist Isabella comes to know about her past, her mother, her parentage , through a letter written to her by her mother's trusted friend, philosopher and mentor.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***A Quest for Spring***, visit:

<https://www.amazon.in/Search-Radice-Moinak-Dutta/dp/9383770260>





## About Moinak Dutta

Name: Moinak Dutta

Published fiction writer, poet, teacher,

Born on 5th September, 1977, he has been writing poems and stories from school days. Presently engaged as a teacher of English. Many of his poems and stories are published in national and international anthologies and magazines and also dailies including 'The Statesman' (Kolkata edition), 'World Peace Poetry anthology' (United Nations), 'Setu' (published from Pittsburgh, USA), 'Riding and Writing' (as a featured poet twice, published from Ohio, USA), 'The Indian Periodical', 'Pangolin Review', 'Tuck Magazine', 'Duane's Poetree', 'Tell me your story' (literary and travel magazine), 'Nature Writing' magazine (U.K.), 'Oddball' magazine, 'Soft Cartel' magazine, 'Diff Truths' magazine, 'The Literary

Fairy Tales', 'Defiant Dreams' (a collection of stories on women empowerment published by Readomania, New Delhi), 'Dynami Zois' (a selection of short stories comprised of works of authors from India and abroad), etc;

Written reviews of books and fictions, among which notable ones are : on 'The Upanisads' (translated by Valerie J. Roebuck) which can be found at <http://blogapenguinindiaclassic.blogspot.com> and the review of 'The Ballad of Bapu' (written by Santosh Bakaya). Written some essays and articles on education and literature and other topics which had been published in both e- books/e - journals (like Cafe Dissensus) and as printed books/ papers (like one on 'Amalgamation of social media and literature: pros and cons' published by Viswa Bharati Research Centre and Sahitya Anand), 'Erothanatos' (academic and literary journal), etc;

His first full length English (genre: literary/romance) fiction 'Online@Offline' had been published in 2014, by Lifi Publications. His second fiction (genre: literary/quest) titled 'In search of la radice' was published in 2017 by Xpress Publications. Also worked as an editor of a poetry collection titled 'Whispering Poeisis', which had over one hundred poems from sixty poets from different parts of India and abroad, published in 2018 by Poeisis. Loves to do photography apart from listening to music and watching films and traveling.

\* \* \*

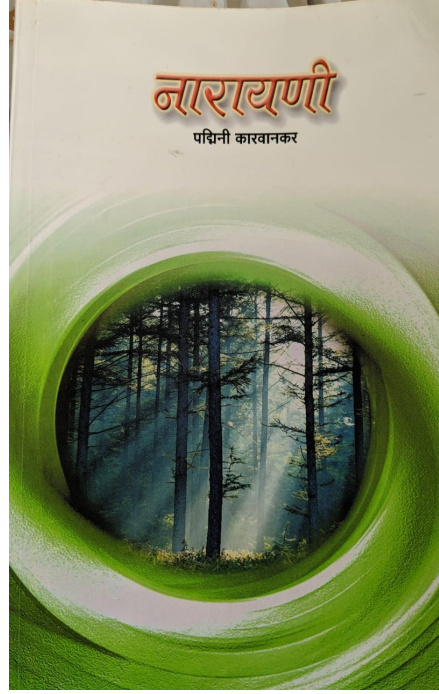
## Let's connect

WEBSITE: <https://moinakdutta.wordpress.com>

\* \* \*

# नारायणी (NARAYANI) By Padmini Karwankar

Genre: Adult Fiction | Published by Apurva Publications in March 2009



## Best Paragraph

**आ**ता काही गोष्टींचे अर्थ नव्याने कळायला लागले. लहानपणी वाचलेली रामायणाची गोष्ट, रामाकडे जाण्यास आतुरतेने वाट पहाणारी सीतामाई म्हणजे ही उजाच नव्हे का ? कृष्णाशी रासकिरडा करून, त्याच्याशी एकरूप होणारी राधा ही पण उर्जाच ना ? पण त्या उर्जेचं बल प्रचंड. सौंदर्याला तर तोड नाही. कुठे राधेच्या नाजूक श्रृंगारातून ती दिसत होती कुठे पेदम्माच्या त्रिशूलधारी विक्राळ स्वरूपात. कधी यशोदेच्या ममतेत. वाल्मिकींनी रामायणाचा एवढा मोठा कल्पक, सुंदर संसार उभा केला तेही त्या उर्जेचं रूपच होय, ज्याला आपण माता सरस्वती म्हणतो. एक एक गोष्ट नव्याने प्रतीत होत होती. प्रत्येक गोष्टीचा नवीन अर्थ लागत होता. नव्हे त्याची जाणीव आतूनच होत होती. ह्यासाठीच घर सुटलं होत माझं. लहान खेळणं फेकून देऊन अमोल

असं देणं द्यायचं त्या पेदाम्माने माझ्यासाठी ठरविलं होतं. त्या विचारांनी मला आनंदाने अश्रू यायला लागले. त्या आईची मी लाडकी लेकरू होते ! त्यांनी गुहेच्या एका सपाट भिंतीवर लिहून ठेवले होते.

त्वमेव माता च पिता त्वमेव  
त्वमेव बन्धुश्च, सखा त्वमेव  
त्वमेव विद्या, द्रविणं त्वमेव  
त्वमेव सर्वं मम देव देव

त्याचा त्यांनी मला अर्थही सांगितला होता. त्यांचा एक एक शब्द ऐकण्यासाठी माझे मन आतुरलेले असायचे. एरवी ते जास्त बोलायचे नाहीत. पण ध्यान उतरल्यावर काही वेळा इतक्या सुंदर गोष्टी सांगायचे, जसं समुद्राच्या तळाशी जाऊन ते ही शब्दसंपत्ती माझ्या झोळीत धालत होते. माझी ही झोळीच की ! नाहीतर मी कोण ? एक अनाथ दरिद्री, अशिक्षित मुलगी मी ! एवढ्या छोट्या काळात काय नाही दिल त्यांनी ?

## Why is it my best?

This paragraph summarizes the core message presented in Narayani's story. "Oorja" or energy is all pervasive. It manifests itself in the myriad forms that we perceive. It includes everything: the living, the inanimate, the tangible and the intangible.

In this pivotal paragraph, the protagonist - Narayani - realizes this simple yet profound truth. She begins to see the many icons from her childhood stories and mythologies for what they are: different manifestations of the same energy source. She sees "Saraswati" as the manifestation of energy in the form of knowledge and "Lakshmi" as the manifestation of energy in the form of material wealth.

This is the point in her story where she embarks on her journey as the seeker.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase □□□□□□□□ (***Narayani***), visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/NarayaniTheBook/>

## About Padmini Karwankar

Padmini Karwankar has had an interest in religion, spiritualism and the occult for over three decades. She has read, discussed and thought about these topics and how they intersect.

Her debut book is an attempt to share her thoughts and ideas by weaving them into the story of the title character, Narayani, an illiterate tribal girl who sets off on the path to seek the ultimate truth.

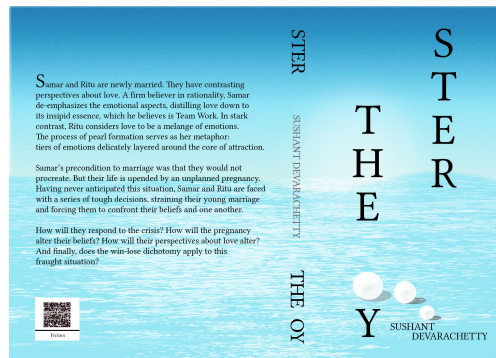
## Let's connect

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NarayaniTheBook/>

\* \* \*

# THE OYSTER By Sushant Devarachetty

Genre: Adult fiction | Self-published in May 2018



## Best Paragraph

Samar remarked that the pictures did not show anybody in conversation. Jiten said a silence had descended over them, stifling their emotions to the extent that nobody cried at the cremations. Later, they had silently walked back to the village, as if in a trance. It felt as if all their thoughts prior to the bombing were suddenly inconsequential, banished to some dark recess of their collective psyche, and their blank minds awaited the freshly sown seeds of new thoughts to sprout into words. Intuitively, they knew those would be different words, a different vocabulary, which would somehow encapsulate their sense of horror and loss and the ever present sense of foreboding they would surely experience henceforth. Even the children made no attempt to ask questions or complain about hunger. Every once in a while, one of the villagers would turn and glare at the ridgeline from beyond which the bombs had originated, as if each stare were launching a hundred retaliatory missiles, pulverizing every mortar pit and gun emplacement

on the other side and restoring a bloody peace.

## Why is it my best?

The above paragraph is from page 181 of my novel, *The Oyster*. It is my favorite because I thoroughly enjoyed writing it and marveled at the power of words to convey exactly what's on my mind. The scene itself is partly based in reality since I witnessed the precarious lives of our hardy citizens in the border areas. As a young Captain I was posted in Naoshera when Operation Vijay (the "Kargil war") commenced and I was tasked to visit a village which had suffered enemy bombardment at the very start of operations. On arrival at the village (I have long since forgotten its name), I found the hapless residents dispersed in the fields surrounding their houses. Some were huddled under scraggy trees while others found shelter in ditches. This image has remained with me ever since; I suspect it will never fade. It gives me particular pleasure to weave that memory into my story with the ardent hope that it will color the reader's imagination and help us empathize with the unheralded commoners who face the brunt in conflict zones across the world.

## Where is the book available?

***The Oyster*** is available only in print as of the 1st edition. To order, contact the author: [+91-9885060704](tel:+91-9885060704) | [Facebook: @pedni.sushant.3](https://www.facebook.com/pedni.sushant.3) | [sushant.pedni@gmail.com](mailto:sushant.pedni@gmail.com) | [Twitter: @dsushantrao](https://twitter.com/dsushantrao)





## About Sushant Devarachetty

Ahem. Time to preen...I started ~~whining~~ writing in a previous life but couldn't finish before my lungs gave up. Like damaged goods, I was returned post-haste. Believe me, I tried to get done on the next..um..sojourn but the damn lungs gave up yet again before I finished. I've been on the beat a few cycles and liked it a lot; so much so that I've lost count of how many iterations have passed.

Who knows, you might've read my timeless "biography" in your previous turn around here. Or maybe not. It doesn't matter because this here is surely my last trip to this planet. And you can bet your \*\*\* I'll finish that story. And more. Just wait and watch (and, if possible, read ) as I get back at those sodden characters who were smug about my endless loop.

Time out (gonna be time up soon, yo).

Polished author speak: My affair with writing fiction and poetry started in August 2014 and has turned into a passion. I've been fortunate to have a steady flow of story ideas and the time and space to complete them. Having decided to self publish some of my creative writing, I set up a website to distribute the content: [pedni.com](http://pedni.com)

end of preen

\* \* \*

## Let's connect

WEBSITE: [pedni.com](http://pedni.com)

TWITTER: [twitter.com/dsushantrao](https://twitter.com/dsushantrao)

GOODREADS:

[goodreads.com/author/show/15970896.Sushant\\_Devarachetty](https://goodreads.com/author/show/15970896.Sushant_Devarachetty)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/pedni.sushant.3](https://facebook.com/pedni.sushant.3)

EMAIL: [sushant.pedni@gmail.com](mailto:sushant.pedni@gmail.com)

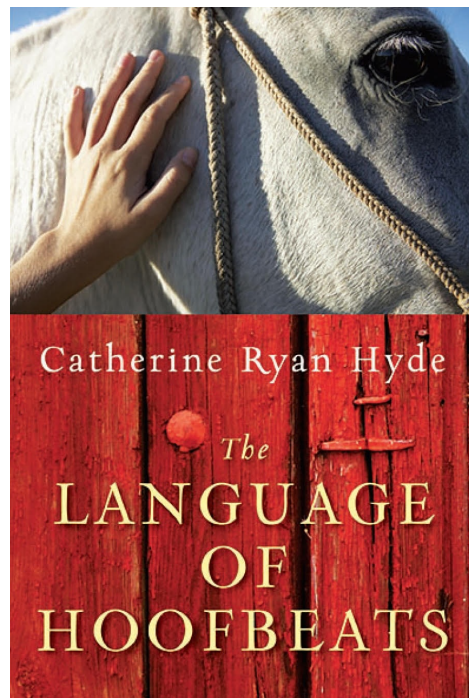
TELEGRAM / WHATSAPP: [+91-9885060704](https://t.me/+91-9885060704)

Note: Some of the above links are persistent URLs redirecting via [purl.org](https://purl.org), a service of the non-profits [OCLC & Internet Archive](https://oclc.org). It is completely safe to access web addresses beginning with purl.org. No analytics or other notifications are generated upon clicking purl.org links.

\* \* \*

# THE LANGUAGE OF HOOFBEATS By Catherine Ryan Hyde

Genre: Adult Fiction | Published by Lake Union/Amazon Publishing in December 2014



## Best Paragraph

And that, I realized, is the worst price we pay for living in a dearth of true communication. We go through our whole lives thinking it's only us. And that has to be the deepest, most bone-chilling definition of the word "alone." You can have a crowd around you, a circus, but they can't spare you from that brand of loneliness.

Why is it my best?

I try to shine an honest light on what it means to be human. And this was the most highlighted (on Kindles) paragraph in this book.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***The Language of Hoofbeats***, visit:

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/BooIUA8IP6/>



## About Catherine Ryan Hyde

Catherine Ryan Hyde is the author of thirty-three published books. Her bestselling 1999 novel, *Pay It Forward*, adapted into a major Warner Bros. motion picture, made the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults list and was translated into more than two dozen languages for distribution in more than thirty countries. Her novels *Becoming Chloe* and *Jumpstart the World* were included on the ALA's Rainbow List; *Jumpstart the World* was also a finalist for two Lambda Literary Awards and won Rainbow Awards in two categories. The

Language of Hoofbeats won a Rainbow Award. More than fifty of her short stories have been published in many journals, including the Antioch Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, the Virginia Quarterly Review, Ploughshares, Glimmer Train, and the Sun, and in the anthologies Santa Barbara Stories and California Shorts, as well as the bestselling anthology Dog Is My Co-Pilot. Her short fiction received honorable mention in the Raymond Carver Short Story Contest, a second-place win for the Tobias Wolff Award, and nominations for Best American Short Stories, the O. Henry Award, and the Pushcart Prize. Three have also been cited in Best American Short Stories.

Hyde is the founder and former president of the Pay It Forward Foundation. As a professional public speaker, she has addressed the National Conference on Education, twice spoken at Cornell University, met with AmeriCorps members at the White House, and shared a dais with Bill Clinton. An avid equestrian, photographer, and traveler, she lives in California.

## Let's connect

WEBSITE: <http://www.catherineryanhyde.com/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/cryanhyde>

GOODREADS:

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126447.Catherine\\_Ryan\\_Hyd](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126447.Catherine_Ryan_Hyd)

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CatherineRyanHyde/>

\* \* \*

# MAPOKSIDA By Thawan

Genre: Poetry | Published by Kekru on 17th August 2017 | Translated from the Meiteilon original by Tingthounu

THAWAN

mapoksida



KEKRU

Best Poem: *Meiteilon original version*

## Mapoksida III

The following two images are screenshots of Thawan's poem sourced from <https://issuu.com/kekru17/docs/mapoksida>

### III

Wari saba houwi.

Eina haiba tao. Eina haiba khakta.

Madutada khanggani eigi asonba khudingmak.

Mang ama mangi.

Mang duda ekhut tara palli. Mit tara palli.  
Adubu eini. Paiba ngambagi mashing hengatli.  
Uba ngambagi mashing hengatli. Khangba hengatli.  
Amuktangda thabak manga gi mathakta touba  
ngammi. Lukhamdasu mit panbadagi maikei khuding-  
mak amuktangda uba phangi; masidagi henna unnin-  
gai leiribara eina lepppiba khongpham sidagi.  
Koktonda panba mitna atiyabu chuptuna yengi.

Pumnamak sida nungairiba adubu pammuribadi mikap  
thoklakpada mang oiram laba ko. . . !

Mapok ama poki.

Anouba mapoksidasu eigi ema adum leiri. Eigi  
yum. Eigi emung. Eigi ei. Khetnaba karisu leite  
mamanggi mapoksingduga. Atiya na eibu yengli.  
Pambisingna eigi wari tari. Yumbi achouba singna  
eibu mashak munna khang. Adubu eina ngangliba  
lonsi esana khangba ngamdari.

Mapoksida.

Eigi seirengsingna eibu thina cheiraki. Tin  
sitchillaki. Seireng singgi marakta chensilluba-  
da tinna pumchot chotli.

Seireng ga eiga kari khetnari.



## Mapoksida III

### *(In this birth)*

Beginning a conversation.

Listen to what I say; only to what I say.

And you shall discern all my frailties.

I am dreaming a dream.

In this dream, I have ten arms; ten eyes. I have the ability to hold more. I perceive more. I understood more. I can perform more than five tasks at a time. And because I have eyes at the back of my head, I can see every direction all at once; from where I stand, is there anything more to be seen? The eye at the tip of my head caresses the sky.

Alas! The exciting yet uncertain thing is, if it is all a dream when I wake...!

A new birth is born.

Even in this new birth, there's my mother. My house. My family. I of I. There is no difference from my other births. The sky is staring at me. The plants harken to my story. The pillars in this house know me well. But I cannot comprehend the tongue I speak.

In this birth,

My poems berate me. They spit on me.

When I dashed among my poems, I am drenched in spit. How am I different from my poems?

## Why is it my best?

This particular poem is from an ongoing series that I am currently writing and is inspired by my constant sense of déjà vu. Writing for me is a ceremonious process where I am always transported into a dream like limbo, visions rapidly appearing and disappearing between pages. I like to think of this as my best since I was able to realize my vision through this poem.

## Where is the book available?

The ebook edition of ***mapoksida*** is available for free at <https://issuu.com/kekru17/docs/mapoksida>



## About Thawan

Thawan was born at Singjamei, Manipur. By the age of 10, he felt inspired to write poetry and began to write actively in his personal diaries. At 15 years, he was introduced to Manipuri literature and began to read

profusely. Around this time, he tried to hone his writing skills continuously by exploring himself. At 18, the urge to publish took root. Sometime in 2010, he took up a guitar and began to tune his poems. This became the corner stone for his musical journey expressed through poetry.

Thawan is also the frontman of Atingkok, an experimental alternative folk band. He is also pursuing his writing and publishing career through Kekru, a platform that focuses on poetry and its interactions with other art forms. Mapoksida is his first volume of poetry published by Kekru in August 2017. The book featured the translations of the original by Tingthounu.



## About Tingthounu, the translator

Tingthounu is based in Imphal. She works closely with Thawan and has translated several of his poetry, which is now being compiled to form an anthology. Together, they started “Kekru”, an initiative that thrives on poetry and its interaction with other art forms. They have edited and published three chapbooks under Kekru.

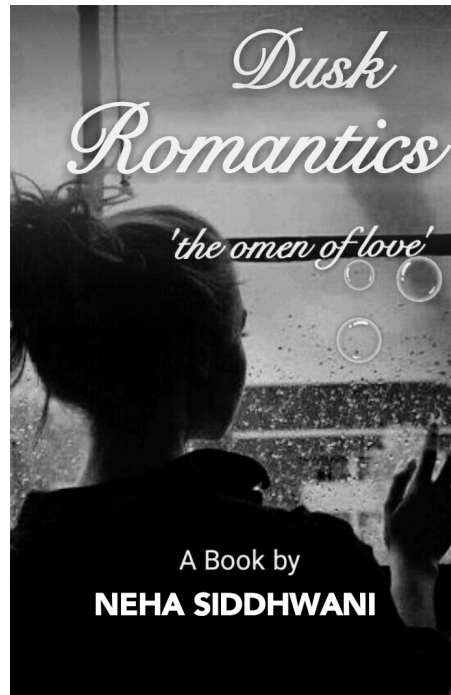
## Let's connect

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/brown.ireng3>

\* \* \*

# DUSK ROMANTICS ~ THE OMEN OF LOVE By Neha Siddhwani

Genre: Poetry | Self-published (Kindle, Amazon) in July 2018



## Best Poem

That angelic beauty took my pace  
I was the one there all mess  
Her beauty was my base  
But I guess I need to have race.  
Thousand men were in steeplechase  
Just for her one yes  
That gave me nothing but stress  
And I was all spellbound by her cuteness...

## Why is it my best?

The usage of words in that particular paragraph is beautiful and the way it has been portrayed is amazing according to me. Alluring vocab, meaningful paragraph, a deep oceanic touch in these few lines which for a voracious reader is easy to decode but for a naive it's quite a difficult task. The emotions in that particular paragraph is something really close to my heart, it's like I'm revealing my own feelings in these few words. Those feelings which we find hard to express. So this is not only a para but my own emotions penned down in this manner.

## Where is the book available?

To purchase ***Dusk Romantics ~ The Omen of Love***, visit:

<https://t.co/peMTekcC8k>



# About Neha Siddhwani

\*A girl surrounded with books and pages  
A girl not nerdy but an introvert with a pen  
Penning down her feelings in form of a story or poetry  
Chasing her dreams down the lane\*

This is Neha Siddhwani here, a Poetess and an author of her first published ebook - "Dusk Romantics~The Omen of Love." I ain't any tech savvy or any engineering student. Neither I belong to medical field nor to any astrological one but I'm a student of commerce who loves writing more than calculating the GDP rate. I'm an aspiring writer as well as an upcoming designer. And writing is like a drug to me, the more I try to run, the more it holds back to me. I've been writing from last four years and it turned out peace to my chaos. Whenever I feel low, I write, whenever I'm happy I write, so you see I can write in every situation and mood. Well, whenever I'm not writing then sketching is the best thing to kill time or cooking and experimenting with food is my favorite task. I'mma boring and interesting kind of person as a same time, it depends on you and your choice how you find me and take my words on you. A die hard coffee fan, Coffee is love, life and hope and with hope I remember, I am hopelessly romantic kind of person too. Some of the people who knows me well call me "The Queen of Erotica" because of my love for writing sexual literature mixing it up with daily life and taking romance to a different level.

## Let's connect

AUTHOR PAGE ON AMAZON: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/r.html?C=Z9SQXHR9LXA4&M=urn:correios:msg:201807091038093e298200ea>

\* \* \*

# Dedication

For

Readers, the raison d'être



# Acknowledgment

Each of the contributing authors to this compilation heartily thanks you, the reader, for taking the time to open this e-book. Hopefully you will discover authors you didn't know existed. The fruits of our labor will be realized if you stumble upon paragraphs / poems which intrigue you enough to want to read the books they're housed in.

## Authors' Best: List of authors & poets

*1st Edition:* [Adite Banerjee](#) | [Reet Singh](#) | [Paromita Goswami](#) | [Ruchi Singh](#) | [Namrata Gupta](#) | [Priyanka Baranwal](#) | [Romila](#) | [Mahevash Shaikh](#) | [Sara Khan](#) | [Subrat Saurabh](#)

*2nd Edition:* [Catherine Ryan Hyde](#) | [Ramendra Kumar](#) | [Monica Mujumdar Dixit](#) | [Rahul Tushar](#) | [Moinak Dutta](#) | [Padmini Karwankar](#) | [Sushant Devarachetty](#) | [Thawan](#) | [Neha Siddhwani](#)

## Postface

**Y**es, the job of an author is to write. And to keep writing. Books are akin to the sea; just as the sea is fed by several rivers and streams so also a book is filled with words emanating from the rivers of imagination gurgling forth - or spewing, as the case may be - from an author's fertile mind. The words an author strings into sentences and paragraphs are similar in character to streams: some are deep while others may be shallow; some gush across the landscape and others meander sluggishly; some are crystal clear while others are dark and murky. Just as a seasoned local tour guide would unerringly lead you to the most charming spots so also an author is best positioned to pick the finest words they've strung together in a book. We invite you to unmoor yourself and experience the vicissitude of the rivers of words the authors have selected for your enjoyment. And if a particular river entices you, ride along to it's source and immerse yourself in the author's ocean of imagination.

The Second Edition of Authors' Best includes content from nine creative writers: seven authors & two poets. It is available in the following formats: [EPUB \[2nd Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[2nd Ed\]](#)

Note: The PDF version of the 2nd Edition will be published by 31st October 2018

\* \* \*

The inaugural edition of Authors' Best was published on 28th July 2018 & includes content from 10 creative writers - nine authors & one poet:

[EPUB \[1st Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[1st Ed\]](#)

\* \* \*

Track Authors' Best on your preferred platform:

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Reddit](#) | [Wattpad](#) | [Instagram](#) |  
[Pinterest](#) | [Telegram](#) | Email: [AnAuthorsBest@gmail.com](mailto:AnAuthorsBest@gmail.com)

\* \* \*

# Publishing Workflow

The following software products and services formed part of the publishing workflow of this edition of Authors' Best:

Font Families: [LinuxLibertine](#), [Underwood Quiet Tab](#) & [CDAC-Yogesh](#)

Word Processor: LibreOffice Writer - [libreoffice.org](http://libreoffice.org)

EPUB Editor: Sigil - [sigil-ebook.com](http://sigil-ebook.com)

Permanent Identifiers - [purl.org](http://purl.org)

[\[Return\]](#) *Why is there no ISBN?* I believe identifiers belong to a bygone era when the only mode of publication was print. Today, search engines can find anything published online. And they don't need a string of numbers to do so: the title of a book and the author's name or month of publication suffice.

# About Authors' Best

The sole aim of Authors' Best is to provide the reader an interesting way to discover new authors & new books. While there is no dearth of information about books, a compilation simplifies the discovery process.

Authors' Best is a collaborative publication. The e-book edition is available for free. Participating authors contribute content which is compiled & published by volunteers. Each author's page includes the following:

1. A paragraph/poem the author considers to be the best she/he has written in that particular book
2. A brief note on why the author considers the chosen paragraph/poem to be the best in the book
3. The author's profile

So long as authors & poets are willing to contribute content, new editions will be published.

The first two editions were open to all genres and feature fiction, poetry and non-fiction. A suggestion by the Melbourne based author [Cheryl Wright](#) led us to consider genre-specific editions. While considering a Western Romance special, encouragement from Lady Cumberpatch ([Jo Dee Burgoyne-Neal](#), who co-hosts the Leeds Steampunk Market with Si Burgoyne-Neal) caused us to plan for a Steampunk special.

Please fill the relevant form to submit your book's details to the special editions:

1. [Steampunk special edition of Authors' Best](#)
2. [Western Romance special edition of Authors' Best](#)

To participate in the next generic edition (the fifth since we're numbering

them sequentially irrespective whether it's a generic or special edition)  
please fill this form: [5th Edition submission form](#)

\* \* \*

Authors' Best is published as an e-book and is available for free in PDF & EPUB formats. The files are hosted on the cloud at Box.com & can be downloaded without creating an account

\* \* \*

The Second Edition of Authors' Best includes content from seven authors & two poets: [EPUB \[2nd Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[2nd Ed\]](#)

Note: The PDF version of the 2nd Edition will be published by 31st October 2018

\* \* \*

The First Edition of Authors' Best features nine authors & one poet:  
[EPUB \[1st Ed\]](#) | [PDF \[1st Ed\]](#)

\* \* \*

Connect with Authors' Best on your preferred platform: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Reddit](#) | [Wattpad](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Telegram](#) | Email: [AnAuthorsBest@gmail.com](mailto:AnAuthorsBest@gmail.com)

Note: The above links are persistent URLs redirecting via [purl.org](http://purl.org), a service of the non-profits [OCLC & Internet Archive](#).

It is completely safe to access web addresses beginning with purl.org. No analytics or other notifications are generated upon clicking purl.org links.

\* \* \*